

KOREA,

AND HER RELATIONS TO CHINA, JAPAN AND
THE UNITED STATES.

BY

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A PAPER

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BY

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Map of Korea, showing portions of China and Japan.

K O R E A .

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

The New England Society, at its monthly meeting in June, 1882, passed a unanimous vote to the effect, that "the Historical and Geographical Section be invited to favor the Society with either a discourse or paper upon some new and interesting topic."

In response to this request, and at the personal solicitation of many of its members, supplemented by a direct vote passed by the Society at its meeting in October, 1883, I have had the subject under contemplation for the past eighteen months. Civilization has made such rapid strides during recent years, and steam and electricity have brought us into such close and rapid communication with all parts of the known world, that one really has to sit down and ponder thoughtfully before deciding in what direction to turn successfully for a subject which has not already been worn threadbare; or, at least, been traveled over and illustrated for the first, second or third time.

To my mind Korea seemed to be the only country under the sun not yet opened up, and understood by the people of the United States, and Europe—in reality the "Ultima Thule"—and in that direction I accordingly concluded to seek my groundwork for the present discourse; naturally taking a stronger personal interest in this special subject, from a long residence in the far East, and travels in the immediate vicinity of this hitherto forbidden land. Even before the recent interchanges of treaty and comity between Korea and

the United States, through our American Commodore R. W. Schufeldt, I had undertaken the preliminaries ; but owing to constant interruptions and engagements, and, at last, in consequence of a rather sudden determination to revisit China and Japan, after ten years absence, I have been compelled to put off this anticipated pleasure until the present time.

I have endeavored to collect such information as I consider trustworthy, so far as it can be obtained at this early period, paying special attention to all such matters as have come directly under my own personal experience.

It was my good fortune and pleasure, during my recent trip, to have as fellow passenger on board the Pacific Mail Steamship "City of Peking," from San Francisco to Yokohama, Gen. Lucius H. Foote, the recently accredited Minister Plenipotentiary to Korea, and a more pleasant and intelligent *compagnon de voyage* I have rarely met. To those not familiar with the record of this gentleman, I would explain that Gen. Foote, during our late civil war, was attached to the staff of Governor Booth, of the State of California. Subsequently he was for four years United States Consul at Valparaiso, Chili, and upon the death of Gen. Kilpatrick, United States Minister at Santiago, Gen. Foote was appointed by the President as his successor. This position he held for one year, when he was, quite unexpectedly, summoned to Washington, receiving at the hands of President Arthur the appointment of Minister to Korea.

Naturally between Gen. Foote, his entertaining wife, and myself a mutually sympathetic and close acquaintance was formed during this twenty days voyage ; the topic of interest, above all others, being Korea. The Japanese Embassy, under charge of Minister Suigè, were also fellow passengers, returning home after the coronation of the King of the Hawaiian Islands, between whom, (during his recent trip to China and Japan.) and the Mikado, a very warm and lasting friendship seems to have been formed. Through Mr. Nagasaki, a private secretary of the Mikado, acting as interpreter, he being also well informed on matters pertaining to Korea, I was thus singularly fortunate in being able to discuss my subject with those having an equally deep and kindred interest.

From Du Halde, and from Règis and Féron, renowned French missionaries, as well as from Emil Oppert and Col. Von Siebold, I have also derived much valuable information pertaining to this peculiar country and people.

And here I may be pardoned for referring to the rapid advance made in domestic and foreign travel, when a voyage to Japan and China, from New York, by rail seven days to San Francisco, and by steamer twenty days to Yokohama, and eight days to Shanghae, and return home, covering a distance of 23,000 miles, or nearly equal to that around the world, may be made in three and one-half months. I include in that time an intermediate voyage from Shanghae to Hong Kong and Canton of twelve days; with stoppages on shore in China and Japan of from five to six weeks. Compare this journey with that of the old sailing-vessel days of twenty-five years ago, when, in 1858, I made the voyage to Shanghae from Boston in 184 days—nearly twice the time occupied by this recent trip out and back. Verily, this world of ours does to me, in reality, seem far less imposing in magnitude than I was taught to believe in my boyhood days.

Before passing on to our main subject for the evening, I desire to make brief mention of two of China's greatest wonders. On the left of the chart, running down to the Gulf of Liau-tung, will be noticed the Great Wall of China. This stupendous work is undoubtedly the greatest masterpiece of industry, genius and perseverance which Asia contains. It was built by the Emperor Chin-tsin, 221 years B. C. It extends fully 1,500 miles, from the Yellow Sea to the most westerly portion of the province of Shansi.

It is built of coarse Chinese bricks, slate, stone and earth; is twenty to twenty-five feet high, and about twenty-two feet broad at the top; flanked throughout its entire length, at intervals, by square towers forty-eight feet high, and fifty feet wide; with massive gates, fortified by two or three ramparts of great strength. It runs over the tops of mountains fully 5,000 feet high, and often at an elevation of forty-five degrees, down deep into valleys and vales, but always maintaining its uniform height of from twenty to twenty-five feet. From

four to five millions of men are said to have been employed in building it ; the time occupied being about ten years. Four hundred thousand of these laborers are believed to have died during that period from incessant toil. It has braved the storms of more than two thousand years, and still it stands to-day in all its pristine strength and dignity.

During the fall of 1869 I made a trip from Shanghae to Peking and the Great Wall, and have here to-night a memento of that trip in the shape of a piece of slate rock, which I took from one of the foundation stones directly under the gateway of the wall, at Nan-kaou Pass.

At one time in China's history no less than one million of soldiers garrisoned this extensive wall of defense against the Tartar hordes, which continually threatened the Chinese Empire. When one reflects that the materials of which this Great Wall is built would, as Sir John Barrow estimates, suffice to erect a wall six feet high and two feet broad, which in point of length, would twice encircle the globe, it must be admitted that it is one of the marvels of the ancient world, and we cannot help appreciating the remark of the celebrated Dr. Johnson, who was so impressed with the magnitude and grandeur of this great undertaking as to exclaim : " that it would be an honor to any one to be able to say his grandfather had seen the Great Wall of China."

Another curiosity, being a piece of one of the bricks taken from the famous porcelain tower of Nanking in 1857, I have also brought with me. This wonderful structure, 261 feet in height, was completed in 1430, after nineteen years of incessant labor, and was completely destroyed by the Tae-ping rebels in 1856, not a vestige of it remaining to-day. Its cost was nearly three and a half millions of dollars, an enormous sum in those times.

K O R E A .

What may be considered the very last *Terra Incognita* among the nations of the earth, has, at last, succumbed to the inevitable and irresistible march of human progress ; and Korea, in this late year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and eighty-three, has now for the first time, and we trust for all future time, thrown open her doors to the outside world. Henceforth she has determined not to be behind her larger and more powerful neighbors, China and Japan, in taking a forward and honorable position among the more civilized nations.

Except to a few French missionaries, who had managed to find their way into the country, Korea has been hitherto almost unknown to the outer world ; in fact it has, as you know, often been called the "Hermit Land."

Interested motives have undoubtedly influenced Korea in the very important step she has taken at this late day. She has been influenced on the one hand by the hostile attitude of Russia and Japan, and on the other by the friendly posture of her nearest and most powerful neighbor, China ; and the United States, with the good help of Li-hung-chang, has in a very quiet and unexpected manner accomplished, in the sudden opening up of this most obscure country, results which other nations like England, France, Germany and Russia have ineffectually striven to bring about, from time to time, for fully half a century.

Russia, with her insatiable greed for further landed possessions, has always shown an inclination to absorb the Northern and Eastern, or ocean provinces, of Korea, with the view of getting more valuable facilities of enlarged sea coast, and more convenient port accommodations for her naval and mercantile

fleets and Pacific coast trade than she now possesses on the Siberian Pacific coast, or its annex, the large island of Saghalien. The principal ports of these Russian Possessions are all more or less closed by ice during the greater part of the year, being situated between the 42d and 55th parallels of latitude, and are rendered unsafe for navigation by severe northeast monsoon gales, which sweep down the entire length of this coast from October to April.

A most intelligent English writer in Hong Kong, in August, 1882, said: "What Russia, who is as zealous on behalf of the Greek Church as France is for the Romish faith, will do when *her* opportunity to negotiate a treaty with Korea comes, we feel curious to see. The fear of some aggressive move on the part of Russia was certainly one of the motives which actuated Li-hung-chang when he so earnestly recommended the Korean Government to abandon their policy of isolation. The great Chinese Viceroy was astute enough to see that if western powers acquired commercial interests in Korea, it would be less likely to fall a victim to Muscovite rapacity. The annexation of the northern provinces of Korea by Russia, or even the seizure of Port Lazaref alone, would be a grave danger and constant menace to China. Hence, the anxiety of the Chinese to keep Russia within her own bounds in Asia, and to preserve Korea as a *buffer* between Russia and the waters of the Gulf of Pechele."

The Koreans have certainly for years felt very suspicious of Russia and have from time to time been alarmed by her threats and actions, and in consequence have sought still closer alliance with, and accepted under less reserve the friendly advice and counsel of their Chinese neighbors, which by strong representations have tended more and more towards the unreserved throwing open of the country by treaty to all civilized nations.

Japan has for a long time, notably within fifteen or twenty years, carried on almost an exclusive trade with Korea, and she has never ceased to urge upon the Korean authorities the granting to Japanese traders special facilities, which Japan certainly would not expect or desire to see accorded to her

neighbors, the Chinese, or to any other nations. This pressure and persistency on the part of the Japanese—no doubt magnified and made the most of by the Peking Government—has caused no little offence to Korea.

Rather than give Japan any partial advantages, and influenced by the threatening position of her very powerful northern neighbor, Russia, as well as by the friendly advice of China, Korea very properly concluded, in 1882, that the auspicious time had at last arrived when it was to her *own* advantage to emerge from her seclusion and open her gates to foreign intercourse, as Japan had already done but a few years before, and thus at last to enter into the comity of nations.

I give these details that we may the better understand the motives which have impelled Korea forward in the path she has so recently elected to follow.

China is generally supposed to have professed and maintained the claims of suzerainty, or control, over the kingdom of Korea for many centuries past, and this assumption is made manifest in the late negotiations carried on with Korea by Com. Schufeldt, under the good auspices of his former friend, Li-hung-chang.

On the part of Japan, ever jealous of China's increasing influence in Korea, and annoyed at the preference given to Chinese instead of Japanese aid, this concession by Korea to China has never been acknowledged; still, to a degree it is undoubtedly accepted by Korea, and annually their Embassy, accompanied by a few privileged traders, repairs to the principal fairs held in Manchuria a portion continuing on to the Chinese capital, Peking, where audiences are held at the Chinese court. In the Imperial edict, dealing with the late Regent of Korea, the Dai-un-kun, when sent into exile, these words were used: "Korea is a dependency of Our Ta Tsing Empire, and has been subject to Us, for generations."

This apparent claim of close relationship between China and Korea, as that of Liege and Vassal, was further made manifest in the course of the gratuitous negotiations carried on

by Mr. Emil Oppert, formerly a German merchant and an acquaintance in Shanghae, who made three different voyages from Shanghae to Korea in 1864 and 1865, with the avowed object of opening up that country on his own account, and for the future benefit of the world at large, but who in reality failed most ignominiously.

These incursions could be explained in detail from personal recollections did time permit. Suffice it to say, that Mr. Oppert proceeded three times to Korea in the British steamers "Emperor" and "Rona," and German steamer "China," the latter taking an armed force of twenty-five Manilamen and Chinese, supported by an American named Jenkins who spoke Chinese fluently and led by a French priest and interpreter named Ridel. The real purpose of these marauding expeditions was that of surreptitiously securing the supposed golden coffin of the last king of Korea, to be held for ransom by Mr. Oppert in exchange for his self-made treaty, and the advantages expected to be derived therefrom. These expeditions were, one after the other, rendered fruitless and barren of any good results. The ending of the third and last Oppert expedition resulted in loss of life to one or two of the Manilamen during an armed attack by the Korean authorities, who had learned of the affair, and whose troops, sent in great haste, reached the sacred sepulchre just as the supposed golden coffin was almost within the grasp of these filibusters. Mr. Oppert, with his would-be diplomatic confreres, barely escaped with their lives, fleeing to their boats, pursued by an angry crowd of outraged Koreans.

After returning to Shanghae, Mr. Jenkins was brought before United States Consul-General Seward for trial for participation in this last incursion, and narrowly escaped incarceration in the Consular jail, while Mr. Oppert, on return home to Germany, is said to have been tried for the same offence and imprisoned for two years. Of Mons. Ridel and his subsequent missionary work, we have no authentic account.

It was during one of these negotiations that Mr. Oppert was distinctly informed by a high Korean official that the King positively refused his consent to any intercourse being held in

regard to matters pertaining to a treaty without the previous acquiescence of his friend, the Emperor of China.

Still, I have reason to believe that this claim on the part of China and its nominal acceptance by Korea, like that professed towards Annam, is one of convenience and policy rather than of any conceded hereditary right ; and in this case asserted for the purpose of exercising a certain influence and restraint over Japan, of which country China has ever been jealous, in consequence of which jealousy Korea was for many early centuries the theatre of most barbarous and devastating wars.

Korea appears early in Chinese history, the first notice being in the year 1120 B. C. The famous Shang dynasty had been overthrown, and the Chow dynasty had come into power, led on by its first King, Woo, from which period down to the present time the Emperors of China have claimed supremacy over the country.

Down to about the ninth century A. D., Korea was called by the Chinese Chao-sien ; by the Japanese Cho-sen ; and by the natives themselves Tah-chosun, or Great Korea. From about the middle of the ninth century, when a change of government occurred, down to the year 1391 A. D., the country was called Kao-le, or Korea, while from that date to the present time, its old title of Tah-chosun has again been adopted, and to-day it is so called by the people themselves, although by Occidental nations the old and familiar name of Korea has always been maintained. The late Korean Minister, Prince Min-Yong-Ik, always spoke of the country as Tah-chosun, and its people as Chosunese ; and these terms are used in all official and diplomatic correspondence by the government and people.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, after a period of fully 300 years, the Ming dynasty was overthrown by the Manchus, and the unsuccessful expeditions made by the Chinese into Korea between the years 1627 and 1637 were, owing to the determined valor and opposition on the part of the Koreans, the last incursions attempted by China, and from that time to the year 1882 Korea has practically been a sealed

book; as was the case with Japan, when, in 1854, its doors were also first opened to an American naval officer, Commodore Perry.

A brief description of the Kingdom of Korea may here be of interest. The total area is nearly 80,000 square miles, or about double the size of the State of Pennsylvania, or say eleven times as large as our own State of New Jersey. It is situated between the 34th and 42d parallels of latitude, the extremes corresponding to the situations of our own cities of Wilmington, North Carolina, at the south, and Boston, Mass., at the north, its longitude being between 122° and 130° east of Greenwich. The coast tends obliquely from northwest to southeast, as does that of the State of Florida, having on the north and northwest the extensive Chinese and Russian province of Manchuria, on the east the sea of Japan, on the west the Yellow Sea and Gulf of Pechele, and on the south the Korean Straits, separating it from the southwest extremity of Japan. The coast, although very bold and dangerous, and crowded with islands on the south and west, still has a number of fine bays and harbors, where ships may find safe anchorage. There are some half dozen rivers of more or less magnitude, but of course far inferior to the average of those of our own country.

On one of these rivers, the Han-kang, in the western province of Kien-kei, is situated the capital Séoul, (pronounced "sole" by H. E. Min-Yong-Ik, the Korean Ambassador) in latitude 30° , longitude $124\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Following the tortuous windings of the river, the distance from the sea to the capital is fully sixty miles, while across country it is less than twenty-five miles. Here the King and Queen and the Imperial court make their permanent residence. Séoul itself is surrounded by a high thick wall, estimated to be about four miles in circumference, and having four gateways, corresponding to the cardinal points of the compass. A high range of mountains environs the city, on the top of which, following their contour, are built the walls and fortifications. The streets are broad, with many wide avenues, reminding one of Peking.

The country around Séoul is very fertile, with magnificent

fields of cotton, rice and other grains. Both the city and country people, as well as the officials and soldiers, are found to be very civil and obliging. The Royal Palace occupies a site on the northern side of the city, standing on the slope of a beautifully wooded hill, which extends for some two miles to the north, terminating in a craggy ridge, where the city rampart wall winds over it. When passing the palace at a distance of a half a mile, it appears as a series of buildings of the Chinese temple type, extending from the outer gate in a regular succession of buildings and courts, with gates at intervals. The public buildings of the government and residences of the officials are all strongly built, many being quite imposing, with walls on both sides of the street, as is seen in parts of the Chinese capital. The King, whose birthday is celebrated on the 27th of September, is a man of short stature, with a pleasant face, and polished and dignified manners. He is said to be the handsomest man in the kingdom.

One recent writer describes the Korean country as "being very picturesque, with wooded hills, green valleys, clear streams, wild flowers, and fresh and invigorating climate; the people evidently well disposed and of a kindly turn of mind." This writer also goes on to say: "It is certain that, in the material joys that can be given by English grey shirts, American drills, brandy and kerosene oil, these people are really behind the age; whilst of joint stock companies in Perak, Arizona or Wall Street, New York, they have not yet one single thought."

I was somewhat surprised to learn from the Minister that the word "Séoul" means in Korean, *capital* only, and that the real native name of the capital city is Han-Yang. Its population is about 300,000, one-half of which is resident within and one-half without the city walls. As regards the population of the whole empire, I find that heretofore the greatest difficulty has existed in arriving at any degree of accuracy. Within the past two months, both from H. E. Prince Min personally, and from Herr Von Mullendorff, the Foreign Inspector of Customs at Séoul, I learn that between twelve and thirteen millions is a very fair estimate.

The three ports opened by the American treaty to foreign trade are, first in importance, Chosan, (called by Japanese Fusan, and so noted on our maps) situated on the southeast coast in latitude 35° , longitude $122\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, and nearest to Japan, being but 150 miles, or fifteen hours steaming, from Nagasaki. It has a fine bay and is easy of access. A submarine cable, said to have been ordered in England, is soon to connect Fusan with Japan, by way of the Tsu-shima Island, and Simonosaki, in the Island Sea.

Wen-shan, or Gen-san as it is also called, on the east coast, in latitude $38\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, longitude 126° , also has a magnificent harbor about ten miles square, in front of the town, in the rear of which are beautifully wooded and extensive mountain ranges. There are good prospects for trade at this port, it being situated in the immediate vicinity of the fur country.

The third treaty port is Ren-shan, or as it is called by the natives In-chun, also Chemul-po, a little fishing village situated on the western coast, in latitude $37\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, longitude 124° , six miles from the town of that name, which is about one-third the distance on the way to Séoul.

The mountain ranges throughout Korea are very extensive, the different ranges reaching very nearly from one end to the other, north and south, but none are higher than from one to two miles. On the north and northwest these mountains, together with the large Yah-lah river, form the dividing line between Korea, China and Russia.

The kingdom is divided into eight different provinces, three being on the eastern or Japan Sea side, and five in the western or Yellow Sea portion, whilst two of them, Pieng-an and Han Kieng, extend northerly, bordering on the Chinese Manchurian province. These eight provinces have each a Governor, with 332 sub-provincial district magistrates or mandarins.

The monarchy is a despotism, limited only by the existence of privileged ranks and hereditary nobles. The person of the King is held in the highest reverence, and he is the object of almost divine honors, holding the powers of life and death over all his subjects. The government is practically administered by three of the King's principal ministers, the first being

called the Admirable Councillor, or Prime Minister ; the second, the Councillor of the Right ; the third the Councillor of the Left ; these being assisted by six judges with deputies or substitutes.

And here a few words about the religion, manners, customs and caste of the Koreans. Their national religion, if it can be so termed, is undoubtedly like all their other official institutions, based upon that of China ; both Buddhism and Taoism having their votaries. In fact Korea is in many respects, I believe, just China in miniature, and there is no greater reverence paid to Confucius in the Chinese Empire than in the adjacent Peninsula.

Buddhism was introduced into Korea about the year 372 A. D., and it remained the national or official religion up to the fourteenth century, when the teachings of Confucius took a strong hold upon the people, and they are to-day the established creed of the kingdom. The Chinese state gods are everywhere worshipped ; the literati profess the Confucian Ethics, and the sacred books of this worthy sage have been officially translated and are current and revered throughout the Empire.

Many of the large pagodas, erected during the official status of Buddhism and built in the Chinese style, still exist in different parts of the kingdom, in various degrees of preservation and of decay. The worship of ancestors is here maintained in full force, as in China, and great importance is attached to all the details connected with funerals, mournings and tombs. The temple of Confucius, with its beautiful wooded compounds, is seen in every district.

Whilst in India the highest caste is that of the priesthood or Brahmins, the contrary is said to be the case in Korea, where the priests seem to be of a very low order and despised, holding but slight influence for good over the common people. The French Jesuits, or Roman Catholics, have made considerable progress in this country, professing to count their converts from first to last, by scores of thousands. As far back as 1839 the Jesuits claimed to have not less than from fifty to seventy thousand devoted followers.

As might be expected, such conversions as have been claimed and effected by the Romanists could not be accomplished without bringing down the ire of the Imperial authorities, and severe persecutions have, from time to time—descending from reign to reign—been meted out upon these unfortunate devotees. It has been well said, that “a Chinaman gets baptised in consideration of the worldly and material advantages which he expects to gain thereby.” The Korean, on the contrary, has nothing of the sort to expect, but only persecution, torture and often death itself. He becomes a Christian from conviction and not from any mercenary motives. I have personally had a corroboration of this very statement, from the lips of Protestant missionaries themselves in China.

In 1864, at the close of the Ni dynasty, which had been mild and successful, the father of the young King, (then a boy of but four or five years) who had become more and more powerful in his influence, exercised a complete control over the Imperial Council. He suddenly instituted an unprecedented reign of terror and despotism throughout the land, throwing into prison and subsequently beheading nine of the leading French missionaries, three only escaping with their lives, and after great hardships and risks reaching China. One of these Jesuits was Ridel, the instigator, or at least accomplice of Mr. Oppert's third and last raid, in Korea.

No less than ten thousand native Christians and sympathisers, men, women and children, were said to have been cruelly put to death by this barbarous self-acting regent (Dai-un-kun), whole villages being nearly depopulated. Following this horrible treatment of these faithful devotees, an edict was at once issued, prohibiting the holding of the usual annual fairs at the north, as well as forbidding the import, or use in any way, of foreign manufactures, capital punishment being threatened in case of infringement of this stringent edict.

It was this same Dai-un-kun who ordered the late massacre of the members of the Japanese legation, for which Korea is now mulcted in the sum of about 500,000 yen (\$350,000) no portion of which has been paid to Japan as yet, as I was in-

formed in April last, by the Imperial Japanese Secretary, Mr. Nagasaki. The immediate cause of this outbreak, on the 23d of July, 1882, was said to be the fact that the soldiery in the castle at Séoul, numbering about 5,000 men, had not been paid for several months, and the usurper, Dai-un-kun, affecting to sympathize with the soldiery, gave favor and countenance to the massacre. The Queen was thought for a long time to have been poisoned, while the young King was kept in safety within the walls of the imperial barracks.

It will perhaps be remembered that at the close of the late treaty negotiations, by Com. Schufeldt with Korea, the Chinese Commissioners, Ma and Ju, through Admiral Ting, who accompanied them to Séoul, took forcible possession of this acting regent, by inviting him on board the Chinese flagship, and sailing away to Tientsin, from which port he was sent into the extreme northwestern border of China into exile. This was probably done with the approval or, at least, with the connivance of certain members of the imperial council. It was a bold, but doubtless thoroughly politic piece of Oriental strategy on the part of China toward its protégé, and a most righteous retribution and deserving punishment for such a ruling monster in this present age. This action gives a decided promise and guarantee of better management on the part of the Korean government, which is to day ruled by the boy-king, spoken of above, now but twenty-four or twenty-five years of age, from whose enlightened reign great promise of future benefits are justly anticipated.

The old Prince, said to be 76 years of age, was furious when he discovered the treachery of his host, and bitterly denounced him for his bad faith, and had not order in Korea been at once established, China might have brought upon herself complications which would, no doubt, have proved most embarrassing. A well written proclamation was at once put forth by Commissioner Ma, in justification of his summary acts; and another by H. M., the young King, himself, deeply lamenting the loss of his aged father, and imploring the Emperor of China to send him back. Both these are very interesting reading, but I have not the time to give them in full. Suffice

is to say that in a third proclamation the Emperor of China positively refuses to release the Prince, allowing only one deputy from the King of Korea to visit him in his exile once a year. Late reports from China mention that the Dai-un-kun has recently died, after being in exile about one year.

Before leaving this part of our subject and taking up that of caste, I may mention an incident in connection with the beheading of the French Jesuits by order of the Dai-un-kun, in 1866, as a matter of fact, and as confirming my belief that China seeks only to make her claim of suzerainty over Korea one of convenience. On the occasion of Mons. Beltonnet, the French *charge d' affaires* in Peking, demanding satisfaction from, or through, the Chinese authorities for the murder of these nine missionaries in Korea, he was politely but firmly referred by Prince Kung directly to the King of Korea; the Prince not only professing entire ignorance of the affair, but declining all responsibility on behalf of the Chinese Government. Accordingly, in the fall of 1866, the French Admiral Roze, with six or eight men-of-war, attempted to seek satisfaction direct from Korea, endeavoring to reach the capital Séoul, but retiring to Chefoo most unexpectedly. The expedition proved a complete failure, and unfortunately the Dai-un-kun and his council were thereby still further confirmed in their arrogance and false estimate of their strength.

The existence of caste among the Koreans is most marked, the division being far stronger than in China, Japan, or even India; and while there caste arises chiefly from religious actions, in Korea it seems to take on a character very largely local or political.

The civil and military nobility occupy the first and second or foremost ranks after the King and royal family, who stand far above even these classes. Then comes the third, or half-noble caste, which enjoys the right of filling the under offices, as those of secretaries, interpreters, &c. The fourth includes the civil, or wealthier portion of the residents in cities; and fifth there is the people's caste, including all villagers, farmers, shepherds, fishermen, &c. The lowest of all in the social scale

are the bondsmen or slaves, corresponding to the former serfs in Russia, and even this class has its various divisions. In certain rare cases, however, the King has raised to the highest rank those far below on account of some meritorious action.

The high priests reside in the capitals. The bonzes, or ordinary priests do not, as a rule, bear a good reputation, morally, as do those in the neighboring empires. Their dress is similar to that of the Chinese priests, consisting of long white robes of coarse material, their heads being completely shaven.

It is the opinion of those who have lived among the Koreans that there is hope of more rapid and successful missionary education and moral advancement at this late day under the enlightened influence of the present young King and his advisers, than has been experienced among the Chinese. Many cases are on record of noble self-sacrifice toward the Jesuit teachers, where even life and death were directly involved, which rival any such hitherto recorded in the old histories of Western Nations.

The dress of the Koreans, although plain, is as a rule far in advance of that of both the Japanese and Chinese, and both among the men and women is usually white; while from the highest official to the lowest menial the people are almost invariably well clad. This cannot always be said of their neighbors of China and Japan. The men usually wear a short jacket, reaching below the hips, with wide trousers loose about the legs, or tied at the ankles over the stockings. The better classes often wear long and flowing robes, like their neighbors in China, with a belt or girdle at the waist, to which is attached fan, tobacco pouch, pipe, &c. And here I may mention my own personal experience of meeting in April and May last, many of the official classes attached to the Korean Embassy, then in Japan. At the railway stations in Osaka, Kioto and Tokio, but particularly while waiting for a train at Osaka on the 28th of May, I met several of these officials, two of whom soon became very friendly and communicative, and through an English friend who spoke Japanese, and a Japanese who spoke Korean, I soon found that they were well

aware of General Foote's mission to Korea, saying that the King would be very glad to welcome him and foreigners generally ; that the American treaty would be promptly ratified, and that foreign trade would soon be opened up with Korea. My two friends became quite friendly, on learning that I had been a fellow passenger to Japan with General Foote, and hearing me speak of him in such warm and approving terms, they insisted upon joining me in my compartment in the railway carriage from Osaka to Hiogo, where, after a pleasant hand-shaking and pressing invitation that I should visit Séoul where I could again meet them, we parted company.

I was greatly struck with the marked contrast in the cast of countenance and the color of dress of these two high Korean officials. One was distinctly Manchurian, or Chinese, just such as I had seen in Peking, and as far north as the great wall at Nankow. This man wore a long, bright-blue robe, with high waist, fastened close in the neck ; white stockings ; shoes more European in shape, but not in color, than Chinese ; with the official high crown, broad, straight-brim, bamboo and horse-hair hat. He was of distant, or, perhaps near, Chinese extraction, and was from the northwestern portion of the Empire, bordering on the Chinese frontiers.

The other official was not at all like either the Chinese or Japanese. His face was rather of a Mongolian, or Russian, mold. He was evidently distinctively Korean, being far above the ordinary height of either the Chinaman or Japanese. Both wore full black mustaches and side-whiskers, the latter Korean having a long, bright-pink dress, with the same style of stockings, shoes and hat. Both smoked incessantly, conversing by fits and starts, while they could spare the time between the enjoyable puffs of their Korean pipes, filled almost every minute with the native tobacco. Each had a very good looking gold watch of foreign manufacture, the time corresponding closely to that of my own, which they insisted upon examining in comparison.

The Korean children are usually clothed in light-blue or rose-colored garments, and rarely in extremes of either gaudy or dark colors. The native-spun cotton cloth, similar to

the old Nankeens of China, and coarse cotton drills are the materials chiefly used ; and, owing to the severe restrictions imposed by the late regent, already referred to, foreign manufacturers have had no chance for introduction through China and Japan. Woollens, now that the country is to be opened up to foreigners, will, with our American cottons, (drills, sheetings and jeans) which are regularly shipped to China to the extent of 65,000 or 70,000 bales per annum, no doubt be soon introduced into Korea by American merchants, and become for the future regular staple articles of import into that country, together with our petroleum, cheap hardware, clocks, agricultural implements, scales, etc. Heretofore cotton-wadded garments, with various kinds of skins and furs, have taken the place of woollens. Silk garments are only worn by the nobles and high functionaries, being brought from China, but to a very limited extent.

The country people wear coarse straw-plaited sandals, those able to do so using shoes or boots after the style of the Chinese, but rather more European. The head-dresses of the various classes, among the males, show some dozen different styles ; the hats being chiefly of bamboo—some beautifully lacquered—and of straw, oil-paper, etc. The women, also, are very partial to white, wearing loose trousers and jackets, over which a long robe fastened at the waist is donned. The wives and daughters of the nobility and upper classes wear silks of variegated colors. The handsomest women are said to be in the northwest province of Puing-au-do, about two hundred and fifty miles from the capital ; while the best looking and most stalwart men of the Empire are natives of the southern province of Zen-ra-do. The features of both males and females are, as a rule, more intelligent and prepossessing than the Chinese. In fact, they are decidedly Mongolian, the natives being undoubtedly of the Tung-usic stock, (coming from the Mongols, Manchus, Japanese and Chinese) which has peopled the whole of Northern Asia. In physique they appear stronger and more robust than the Chinamen, with well developed limbs, but with rather darker skins. The average height of the adult male is about five feet eight inches. Their

frank and genial manners are very like those of the Japanese. The Koreans are noted for the great affection they have for their children, and filial piety ranks very high among this oriental people. The men dress their hair with the small top-knot, similar to the style formerly universal among the Japanese under the Tycoonate, with this exception, that the Japanese shaved the top of the head around the top-knot, while the Koreans allow the hair to grow. This style is followed by married men, the unmarried and boys parting the hair in the middle, generally with a tail or cue reaching as far as the waist. The ladies of the upper classes are fond of forming curls with fancy pins and ornaments as fastenings, while the lower classes dress the hair very plainly with the exception of the cue. While the Japanese and Chinese, both men and women, almost universally have jet black hair, among the Koreans several colors, such as chestnut, brown and even flaxen, are seen.

A great degree of honesty and faithfulness is said to exist among this people, and when once the confidence of foreigners is secured, there are good hopes of a far more rapid advancement in moral education and enlightenment than was experienced with the Chinese during the early days of foreign intercourse. The social standing of the women is very similar to that existing in China, polygamy prevailing in a similar degree, the number of wives varying according to the standing and wealth of the individual, but as a rule the lower classes can afford but one wife at a time, and only this class allow their wives to be seen in the public streets in the daytime—the seclusion of the women from the royal family down, being even more rigidly observed than in China. To compensate them for this strict seclusion, we are informed by one writer of the following order, which in Séoul and some other cities was at one time enacted for their special benefit: At nine o'clock in the evening, during summer, and earlier in winter, the gates of the cities are closed at a given signal, when all men are bound to leave the public streets, which are then given up to the women for recreation and promenading. Any male finding himself by accident in the streets is expected to

hurry home. Severe punishment would follow any molestation of the promenaders. Good breeding also requires the unfortunate male to cover his face with his fan, and he is not supposed to even look at the fair promenaders but to cross to the other side so as not to disturb or terrify them.

The houses of the bulk of the people are quite primitive ; and generally one-storied, built of mud and straw ; while in the cities, wood and brick, with tiled roofs, abound. They are, however, inferior to the Japanese and Chinese dwellings, even the residences of the royal family and nobility making but little pretence to grandeur. In winter the Korean dwellings are heated by a primitive sort of subterranean stone furnace, built under the houses with flues running under each room, the smoke finding outlet from a chimney about four feet high in the rear of the compound. Oiled paper has been heretofore used entirely for windows instead of glass, which is now being imported moderately from Japan and China. Here, no doubt is a cheap and most useful article which will soon be imported quite largely from England and Germany, from whence come all the imports of window-glass into China and Japan. Korean paper is made chiefly from the bark of the mulberry tree, and is famous all over the north of China on account of its fine texture and strength. It is used for handkerchiefs, umbrellas, partition walls, and for various domestic purposes. Tables and chairs are not used, but like the Japanese, the Korean always sits cross-legged. Their beds are composed of ordinary mattresses, which are used by the whole family in common ; but among the peasantry, and particularly the large fishing population, even these are unknown. Quilts of raw cotton are of common use among all classes. The natives, as a rule, are temperate and plain in their habits, although when the opportunity presents they do not refuse foreign liquors. Rice, fish, fowl, pork and vegetables, as with the Chinese and Japanese, form their daily food. Beef is very scarce, and sheep were quite unknown in Korea until recently, when the Japanese introduced the latter into the Wen-shan district. Buckwheat, millet, and maize or corn, made into coarse bread, also form part of their diet. Instead of using

chop sticks to shovel their food into their mouths, as do the Chinese, the natives use long spoons and knives, with forks of two prongs, a decided improvement on the custom of their neighbors. Very little tea is at present grown or used in Korea. The very finest spring water exists in all sections, and of this they drink very freely.

Of music, the Koreans of both sexes are passionately fond, the intonation of the voice being like the Chinese in falsetto. The violin and musical boxes are highly appreciated.

At funerals the Chinese custom of paid mourners prevails ; and those who cry the loudest and weep the freest receive the greatest reward. White hats are worn instead of black during the mourning period. Marriages often take place at the ages of fourteen and fifteen, although there is no special rule applicable. The laws of Korea permit marriages in the family, even between brothers and sisters.

Copper coin, larger than the Chinese, with square holes in the middle, of about five hundred and forty pieces to the Mexican dollar (of value of three shillings and eight pence sterling) forms the only medium of ordinary money transactions. Gold bars of about half the standard of fineness of Peking gold, and silver of great purity, are made by the government, for which treasuries and sub-treasuries are placed in the various cities and towns ; but as a rule neither of these precious metals circulates freely in public. The Koreans greatly prize the pure Chinese silver in Sycee form, having the government touch or guarantee stamped on the same. Each of these shoes, or lumps of Sycee, average in value about fifty-two taels, Shanghae currency ; or sixty-two dollars gold, each. Gold, silver, copper, iron and coal abound in various parts of the kingdom ; but the mining of gold itself is strictly prohibited. The working of all mines throughout the kingdom is under government control entirely, any infringement on the part of private individuals being punishable with death. The output of both silver and copper is restricted to the smallest compass ; and in consequence the precious metals are imported largely from Japan. This same national prejudice against disturbing the metallic deposits of the earth exists in full force

among the Chinese, with many of whom considered as intelligent, by foreigners, I have often conversed on this subject.

It would I am sure surprise my friends present could they hear some of the arguments the Chinese bring to bear to show the fearful consequences incurred by digging deep holes in the earth to extract the valuable ores which have lain dormant from the foundation of the world. One of their greatest fears is that, by the digging of deep pits, apparently into the bowels of the earth, the world's equilibrium will be disturbed, and the equipoise of the turtle, which holds the earth on its back, will be seriously endangered.

In the case of coal, that indispensable necessity for everyday life, both for domestic and mechanical purposes, the Chinese have countless millions of tons, from actual surveys by noted foreign geologists, in various portions of the Empire, some of the mines cropping out with good serviceable coal down to the water's edge, on the banks of the Yangtze Kiang river, near Chin Kiang, and yet the Chinese Mandarins have refused all overtures for mining the same until very recently, and now only permit it in a spasmodic manner. The government itself prefers to pay large sums each year for coal from England, Australia, Japan and America, rather than allow its mines to be worked. But this is a digression from my subject which I pray you will pardon.

The same metric system of weights and measures existing in China is current here. The divisions of time also were, until late years, based upon the old Chinese calendar, but now are reckoned by the reigning dynasty.

Every male subject capable of bearing arms is liable to military duty. The armament of the soldiery is very primitive in its nature, comprising bows and arrows with common match locks and lances. A few old-fashioned breech loaders were found by the French during their raid upon Kang-wha. Torture is freely employed in judicial cases, and decapitation by the sword is the usual form of execution, as with the Chinese.

A most effective system of signaling by means of bon-fires

at night from the tops of high hills and mountains, between the coast and the capital, is regularly maintained, whereby the government is kept very fully advised of the approach of any foreign vessel. A postal system is maintained by the government through the highways by horses. The late Minister from Korea has taken a marked interest in our own postal service, and will advocate reforms and marked improvements on his return home. Education is ostensibly held in high estimation in Korea, the same system of yearly examinations at the capital, Séoul, for government positions, being followed here as in Peking. It is interesting to learn from late advices received from Séoul, that steps have already been taken to establish schools for the common English branches, and about one hundred scholars are receiving daily instruction at the hands of several of the educated Chinese lately returned from Hartford, Conn., to Peking, and thence to Korea. Regular English or American teachers are intended to take charge of these schools later on. The language differs decidedly from both the Chinese and Japanese, but still it belongs to the Turanian family. The idiom is peculiar to this people only, but in certain sections, notably in the northern portions and near to the Chinese frontier, a sort of mixture of Korean and Chinese exists, while throughout the south and southeast, in the vicinity of Fusan, the chief trading port on the extreme southeast coast and nearest to Japan, where the Japanese, now numbering from two thousand five hundred to three thousand, have naturally landed and traded for many years past, a Japanese-Korean dialect has taken a strong hold upon the natives.

The Chinese characters and classics are taught in their schools, and every Korean who wishes to rise must master the sacred books of China. The native language is really greatly neglected, the upper classes using Chinese freely, both in social intercourse and in literature. Even the annals of the kingdom, the laws, the scientific treaties, and public instructions, and even the shop signs, are mostly written in Chinese. The sacred books of Confucius are held in great veneration by the majority of the people.

The alphabet, which has a strong affinity with the present Mongolian tongue, consists of twenty-eight letters, of which thirteen are single vowels and diphthongs and fifteen consonants, and is not so very dissimilar to our own when compared to the Chinese language, which is one of characters only.

Of the climate we have very favorable reports; and as the extremes of temperature are included between the parallels of 34° and 42° north latitude, with the sea on either side of the peninsula, the summers are not over-hot, having fresh cool breezes; while the southern or populated districts between 35° and 38° , are not uncomfortably cold even in the extremes of winter. The spring and autumn seasons are simply delightful. The action of the northeast Monsoon winds from October to April, and of the southwest Monsoon winds from May to September, has no doubt a marked effect upon the temperature, and the difference is that usually shown between the Pacific and Atlantic ocean watered countries, viz.: a temperature on the Pacific warmer in winter and cooler in summer than prevails in those parts of the United States or Europe lying in the same latitude but bordering on the Atlantic ocean. This absence of the intense summer heat between July and September, experienced by foreign residents in China ports, from Tsientsin to Canton, cases of sunstroke being rare, makes the climate resemble that of Southern Europe; and gives ample proof to the traveler of its great advantages over all other heretofore accepted summer resorts and sanitariums in either China or Japan. If further evidence were needed, it could be shown in the large number of old people, and general ruggedness noticeable in the physique of the natives, which is apparent in both young and old of either sex. And here I may mention, that when in Shanghae in May last, I was told by friends there, who with their families are accustomed to visit Cheefoo as a seaside sanitarium during the excessive heats of July and August, that they should make similar trips to Korea in preference, as soon as suitable communication and accommodations were provided.

The soil is naturally very rich, and with such a beautiful climate all kinds of flowers, roots, trees and vegetables can be raised luxuriantly.

Tobacco is grown in many parts of the Empire and is widely used by the natives. The chilli pepper, red and green, of large size, is cultivated to an enormous extent, and no Korean dish is ever set forth until it is copiously dressed with this national sauce; and Korea might be called a land, not of lotus eaters, but pepper eaters.

Very fine forests of oak, beach, pine, fir, elm, birch, etc., are found; while in the central districts particularly the cork, mulberry and varnish tree flourish, the latter furnishing the beautiful, gold-colored varnish so highly prized for lacquer and miaco work, in Japan and China.

In a country so hilly and mountainous as Korea, and so densely wooded, cover is given to various descriptions of wild animals, notably bears, and a small species of tiger much inferior to the Indian varieties.

The horses, like those of native growth in Japan, are diminutive, very strong, and at the same time most vicious in their dispositions, like the Japanese; and this I well remember from personal experience. As a rule all the animals of both Korea and Japan are diminutive in stature when compared with those of our own country or Europe.

The raising of dogs for ordinary food is as common as the rearing of sheep with us. Goats and sheep are raised only under the King's auspices for sacrificial purposes.

Naturally the possession of such rich forests will very soon bring about the establishment of steam saw-mills, by means of which China, particularly, will largely receive her supplies of lumber, now imported from Puget Sound, Singapore, the Phillipines and Japan. While in Shanghai I learned that a Chinese company of lumber dealers had already sent a trustworthy foreigner, Mr. Stripling, to Korea, with the object of cutting and shipping to Shanghai, timber such as for centuries past Fuchow has furnished to the whole of China through its enormous wood junk trade concentrated in the Fohkien province, of which the sea port of Fuchow is the natural and convenient outlet.

The Koreans have not as yet developed any marked taste for horticulture, but under the example and influence of foreign

intercourse now about to be developed in Korea I look for a decided improvement in this respect at no distant day. In raw silk, too, with the advent of expert Chinese from the silk hongs in Shanghae, who have lately gone to Korea, and of other foreigners having a due appreciation of its great value and ever increasing demand, and with the mulberry tree actually growing wild and now comparatively neglected, we ought in due time to see a valuable and rapidly developing export trade, whereby Korea shall be made to come forward and claim her rights as a successful competitor with China, Japan and Italy, the three great producing countries of this most valuable and necessary staple. The silk worms' eggs also should in due time prove to be to Korea as they have to Japan for many years past, one of her most valuable exports to the continent of Europe. Of raw silk, Her Von Mullendorff is so sanguine as to predict an export of twenty thousand bales within a few years, but these must, I think, be considered as extreme figures. The tea plant, too, can here be made available and of good value; and while at present growing wild and unappreciated by the Koreans, it would undoubtedly have the same advantages as have existed in the island of Formosa, viz.: a rich, virgin soil, developing a tender, pale and delicate leaf, with rich cup infusion, qualities so highly prized by our importers and experts in the tea trade.

The bamboo tree, which our friend Dr. S. Wells Williams, in his most valuable work on China, entitled *The Middle Kingdom*, aptly calls the national plant of China, being used both for food and for hundreds of domestic and mechanical purposes here grows to perfection; and the grape, strawberry, plum, peach, apricot, persimmon, apple and pear all grow wild, requiring but the simplest modes of care and cultivation to ensure greater perfection. With a climate more mild and humid than that of the Atlantic States, the fruits are less hardy and do not preserve their richness as with us. Of fish there are plentiful varieties and of the best descriptions.

The natives with little or no exertion, and through the bounty of mother earth, easily secure the necessities of life, but they either do not care, or are without the knowledge

requisite, to bring in those sources of income and revenue beyond their own individual wants, which the government will soon require for its increased expenditures, brought about by the opening of its doors, followed by the advent of Western nations.

The cotton plant, hemp, flax, indigo, and many indispensable domestic cereals such as rice, wheat, rye, &c., are raised plentifully. The Korean cotton is far superior to the staple raised in China, being longer and of a fine silky fibre, similar to our own Carolina staple. A variety of clays from which excellent pottery is made are found in the southeastern provinces.

Ginseng, that wonderful medicinal root so highly prized by the Chinese, is here raised, and forms a regular article of export to Peking and to Japan. It evidently corresponds to our own highly esteemed quinine in the universality of its use and the marvelous curative powers ascribed to it.

On my voyage from Shangae to San Francisco I met a most entertaining companion and former acquaintance, Mr. John Fryer, an English gentleman. He has been for 23 years in China, the most of the time in Chinese government employ, and of late has been engaged in interpreting scientific works from the English and German into Chinese.

Mr. Fryer is a thorough Chinese scholar, an Anglo-Chinese Mandarin of the third grade, and an old resident of Peking; and taking a warm interest in my work, he very kindly wrote up the following little dissertation on Ginseng, which I would here like to present to you: "The word Ginseng," says Mr. Fryer, "is apparently of purely Chinese origin, and consists of two Chinese characters: 'jen,' meaning man, and 'shen,' the name of a kind of root, of which there are many varieties. This particular kind of root, in its most valuable form is fork-shaped, and hence resembles the legs of a man, so that possibly the name simply means, the 'man-shaped root.' The other and cheaper kinds of shen-root, are designated either from their physical appearance, or the locality where they are produced, e. g. Korean Shen, or Foreign Shen, much of the latter coming from Iowa.

"A present of Ginseng is considered to be the most valu-

"able that can be made to any one who is known to be in ill
 "health. Notices frequently appear in the *Peking Gazette* of
 "presents of so many ounces, or rather 'taels' weight of
 "Ginseng, being made by the Emperor to some high official,
 "who pleads severe sickness as a reason for retiring from
 "office. From time immemorial Ginseng has stood at the
 "head of all drugs in the Chinese estimation, coming down
 "from such high antiquity, its almost fabulous virtues and
 "qualities are, of course, beyond question. It is *the* medicine
 "of medicines, and to entertain doubts as to its general effi-
 "cacy, as a panacea for all ills that human flesh is heir to, is
 "to argue one's self an ignoramus. The Chinese divide their
 "drugs into two classes, the warm and the cold. A warm
 "disease requires a cold medicine, and *vice versa*. Ginseng
 "stands at the head of warm medicines, and is supposed to be
 "capable of restoring the animal warmth and keeping up the
 "circulation, even when the spark of life is almost extinct.

"The absurd stories that are told and believed in by
 "Chinese literati as to the wonderful properties of this highly
 "popular root, are enough to provoke a smile from the most
 "astute foreigner. When residing in Peking, the native grad-
 "uate who taught me the Mandarin dialect informed me with
 "all gravity that the virtues of Ginseng were so great that
 "the plant had almost the same powers of locomotion as if
 "it belonged to the animal kingdom, it being able to trans-
 "port itself from place to place. Hence, the best varieties,
 "some of which are worth more than their weight in gold, are
 "only to be found and obtained with the greatest difficulty.
 "The plant has literally to be hunted. Men go out by moon-
 "light, armed with bows and arrows, and shoot it as it tries
 "to evade them. Further, the root when taken has to be pre-
 "served with great care, lest it should run away. Having the
 "shape of a man it can use its two legs with such effect that
 "when once it gets started there is no catching it. Having
 "expressed my doubts on this point in the gentlest manner
 "possible, my Chinese teacher seemed considerably annoyed
 "at my presumption, and proceeded to confirm his position
 "by illustrating the motion with his fingers and narrating a

“fact which he knew to be authentic. A man in the country had a root of Ginseng of the very choicest description, prized most highly, and kept wrapped in a paper and securely locked in a box. One night in winter he forgot to lock the box; the consequence was, that the next day the root was missing. Search was made all over the house, but in vain. At last it occurred to the owner that as there had been a heavy fall of snow during the night, the footprints of the thief could be easily traced. Strange to say there were no human footprints, but they found the tracks of the root, which were followed for many miles on the snow, but without catching the runaway, because of the long start it had before its loss was discovered. Verily one would think that a man who would believe this yarn would swallow almost anything, and yet my Chinese friend narrated his story with the utmost candor and dignity, evidently fully believing it to be strictly true. The Korean Ginseng is held in high repute, especially in Peking. Every year there is an Embassy bearing tribute from the King of Korea, which arrives at the capital in the winter time. Various merchants accompany the tribute of Ginseng, paper and other goods, which are carried in rudely formed carts drawn by the diminutive and spirited Korean ponies. There are special quarters for their accommodations near the Tsein-men, or chief entrance to the Tartar City. For some little time after their arrival the white dress and horse-hair gauze hats which distinguish the Korean garb, are to be seen in the streets and suburbs, as the Ginseng pedlers carry about their favorite drug for sale. In the street where they trade are many Chinese Ginseng shops where the drug may be purchased all the year round. So numerous are those shops that the sign boards seem to bear scarcely any other Chinese characters, and the street is sometimes known as the Ginseng street.”

The following account of the cultivation of Ginseng and the wild plant in Korea, is taken from the report of the Commissioner of Chinese Customs at Newchwang, one of the open treaty ports in the north of China: “The chief items which the Koreans bring across the border into China is Ginseng,

“and this is the most valuable of all roots or drugs. Wild
“ginseng is found among the hills, and takes more than thirty
“years to arrive at perfection. The root can be used when it
“has been in the ground about twelve years, but it is not so
“valuable as that of mature age. The other kinds of ginseng,
“known as *first* and *second* quality Korean, are a special
“branch of culture. Only well-to-do people can afford to set
“apart the ground for its cultivation, and to devote to it the
“time which it requires. The usual period allowed for the
“root to attain its full growth when under cultivation is from
“five to six years. It is then dug up, washed and dried in a
“pan over a fire, and after the skin has been scraped away it
“is ready for the market. Once every year a small red flower
“is put forth, the seed from which is carefully preserved and
“sown the following year.”

Up to within a year the Koreans had defied all attempts to open up foreign trade either by force, through the action of the French Admiral Roze in 1866, or peaceably by the American Admiral Rogers, and United States Minister Low, in 1870. Now that the gates have been opened, however, it seems to be generally conceded by the missionaries and travellers with whom I have conversed, or whose works I have read, that while Korea is a country of but small area, as compared to China, and about one-third the population of Japan, the United States is, in the most favorable position to secure the trade of this country. The geographical position of the two countries, the quick and regular communication offered by railroads across the American continent, and steamers to Japan every twelve or fifteen days from San Francisco, give the United States a great commercial advantage over any other western nation.

About 1860, during the Peiho war between China, England and France, Commodore Schufeldt was in China, in command of the United States Steamship “Wachussetts.” I then had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and as he is a man of most genial disposition and entertaining manners, I can well understand why our Government honored him with the high appointment of Commissioner Plenipotentiary, for the special

purpose of negotiating a treaty with Korea. I had held correspondence with Com. Schufeldt, at Washington, previous to my going to China in March last, in relation to his treaty, but as it had not then been before Congress for ratification, he could naturally impart but little of that information which I desired to seek. I have since my return received from the State Department an official copy.

This treaty with Korea, or Chosun, as it is termed in the official copy, was concluded between Com. Schufeldt and the Korean Commissioners, at the little port of Ren-shan, or Yin-chuen, but a few miles from the capital, on the 22d day of May, 1882, ratified by President Arthur, Feb. 13, 1883, and by the King of Tah Chosun and Minister Foote, at Séoul, on the 19th of May, 1883.

There are fourteen different articles in the treaty. The *first* relates to perpetual peace and amity between the two countries. The *second* refers to appointment of Consuls—and I am pleased to see that no merchants are to be permitted to exercise the duties of this office, higher respect always being accorded by Oriental nations to full official and diplomatic appointees. The *third* clause secures perfect protection to shipwrecked mariners, repairs to vessels, &c. Article *fourth* secures protection to Americans, either resident or traveling in Korea; and, until such time as the United States considers that Korea is fully prepared under civilized judicial procedures to administer local laws in full or fair accord with our own, the same rights of extritoriality which by treaty are demanded of China and Japan, are also to be required from Korea. Article *fifth* regulates duties and tonnage dues between the respective countries. Ten per cent. is the rate of duty upon articles of daily use, but upon luxuries, such as wines, clocks and watches, the high rate of thirty per cent. is established. It is gratifying to see that the troublesome Lekim Tax of China, supposed to be equal to half import duty in lieu of all inland taxes, does not enter into the tariff regulations of Korea. Article *sixth* permits the renting of premises, and building of warehouses and residences in both countries; and in the United States Koreans can purchase

land,*but in Chosun as in China, while citizens can lease land for almost indefinite time, the King reserves to himself the right of eminent domain. At present all traffic with Korea is limited to the three treaty ports. Article *seventh* prohibits the import of opium, either into Chosun or the United States ; and under clause *eighth*, in time of scarcity, the export of breadstuffs may be prohibited. Ginseng (Korean) of native growth cannot be exported from Korea by Americans. Article *ninth* limits the dealings in arms and amunition in Chosun to officials of the government, except by special Imperial permits. Article *tenth* authorizes arrests of subjects of Chosun guilty of violation of the laws, who may be harbored by Americans, either on shore or on board ship. Under the *eleventh* clause of the treaty, students of either nationality are to be given full protection and assistance in the prosecution of their studies, as an evidence of cordial good will. Clause *twelfth* stipulates for a further negotiation or revision of the treaty after a period of five years from the 22d of May, 1882, when the two nations will be better acquainted with each other. I think it would have been preferable had this limit of time been three instead of five years, believing as I do, that the concession of *twice* the rates of duty charged by the Chinese tariff, which is based on five instead of ten per cent. ad valorem, is a mistake, and will work to the disadvantage of the people of Korea. Article *thirteenth* stipulates that all official correspondence on the part of Korea shall be in the Chinese language, while the United States shall either use Chinese, or English accompanied by a Chinese version, to avoid misunderstandings. Article *fourteenth* provides the usual favored-nation clause conceded by all Oriental treaties, whereby we also are to receive the benefits conceded by Korea to other countries by subsequent treaties. This clause also requires a ratification of the treaty at Yin Chuen within one year from the date of its execution.

By an addenda, the United States Senate requires of Korea that American ships shall have the privilege of going from one open port to another open port, to receive Korean cargo for exportation, or to discharge foreign cargo. Publicity was

given to this convention by President Arthur on the 4th of June, 1883. It will be noticed that no mention whatsoever is made in the official copy of the treaty of the alleged claims of China of suzerainty over Korea, although in the Chinese versions of this same treaty, first published in China, the Chinese claimed that Korea had made this concession in the preliminary to the convention. Still, Commodore Schufeldt in his letter to the Secretary of State, accompanying his own copy of the treaty, mentions that he had promised to forward a letter from the King to the President, stating the political relations existing between Korea and China.* The English think that Commodore Schufeldt, guided by Li-hung-chang, has conceded too much in allowing a basis of ten per cent. on import duties, which in China and Japan are on a five per cent. basis. This concession to Korea, on the part of the United States, will, I think, be quoted and used by China at some future time, when fresh treaty negotiations are pending between China and our own government. Li-hung-chang has secured for his protégé, the China Merchants Steamship Company, valuable advantages in connection with the coast freighting business between China and Korea; and the customs service is to be arranged on the same basis as the Chinese, under the charge of a foreign official, Herr Von Mullendorff with headquarters at Séoul. This officer, formerly German Consul at Tientsin, and lately attached to the staff of Li-hung-chang, was recommended by Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General of Chinese customs, and accepted by the Tah-Chosun government.

English merchants in China are greatly disappointed that our Commissioner did not insist on a general opening up of the interior of the country instead of restricting our merchants to three small treaty ports.

It is a matter of surprise that, in the official treaty, not one word is said about the rights of missionaries to travel and preach the Gospel in Korea; and this omission is by the eastern residents considered as a refusal, on the part of Korea, to

* Official copies of this treaty may be had upon addressing the State Department at Washington, D. C.

grant this privilege. The Roman Catholics, however, who are already in the country in large numbers with their converts, must of course be allowed to remain.

The Tsung-li-yamen, the Chinese foreign office at Peking, is said to have insisted on the omission of the missionary clause from our treaty; and its representative, Ma-chien-chung, seems to have seen this point well protected; in fact, from the beginning to the end of all the negotiations, the hand or personality of the great Chinese Viceroy is to me perfectly apparent. Li it was, who early in 1882 addressed a letter to the King urging the opening up of the country; and all through the treaty itself, the dictation of this astute Oriental statesman is evident.

France will, no doubt, when her turn comes to negotiate a treaty, insist upon a strong missionary clause as *sine qua non*. England, too, will, I have good reason to believe, bring forward this special request, which Commodore Schufeldt seems not to have proposed, or at least not to have enforced.

Traffic in opium by Americans is, I am pleased to see, positively prohibited, and this concession to Korea will, I believe, receive serious attention, and may be objected to strenuously by Great Britain. The use of this pernicious drug is very limited throughout the kingdom of Korea.

Ma-chien-chung, above referred to as the representative of the Chinese foreign office, with four Chinese men of war, accompanied Commodore Schufeldt from Tsientin to Korea early in May, 1882, to assist in making this treaty. He is the same official who was sent by the Chinese Viceroy, Li-hung-chang, to India, to confer with the Viceroy of India, relative to the restriction of the opium traffic with China, which the Chinese government have long desired to have imposed; but which England refuses, on the score of its being her chief source of Indian revenue. Ma's instructions in the Korean negotiations were to assist Commodore Schufeldt, but at the same time to look closely after the interests of China, and this he seems to have done most effectually.

The English, through Admiral Willes, following the United States, made a treaty with Korea at Ren-shan on the 6th of

June, 1882, the terms of which were based on the American treaty ; but its ratification has been refused on the part of the British Government, owing to the great objections raised by British merchants in the East, to the terms stipulated, they being considered far less acceptable than those in the Chinese treaty, made by Lord Elgin twenty-four years ago.

By late advices received from Shanghae, I learn that Sir Harry Parkes, H. B. M. Minister to Peking, was about to leave for Korea for the purpose of negotiating a new treaty, or to modify that made originally by Admiral Willes.*

The Russians, Germans, French and Italians have all had their naval vessels and representatives close at hand ready, whenever the opportunity should present, to press forward the claims of their respective governments, to treaty recognition by the Korean authorities.

Attached to the Korean Embassy lately visiting this country, with whom I have made a very pleasant acquaintance, was an intelligent and genial young American naval officer, Ensign George C. Foulk, who acted as interpreter from English into Japanese, from which language the Korean Secretary translated into Korean, thus keeping H. E. Min-yong-ik fully informed of all that was going on. Ensign Foulk has been for some time attached to United States naval vessels in Japan and China, and in June, 1882, only one month after Commodore Schufeldt had made his treaty, Mr. Foulk visited Fusan and Gensan, in Korea, on his way from Japan to Europe, via Siberia. The results of his trip along the eastern coast of Korea, as well as his journey through Siberia, have been very pleasantly and graphically recounted in a small volume issued by the Navy Department, a copy of which Mr. Foulk has given me, and which I shall take pleasure in placing on our Society's table. From this interesting volume I have only time to make the following brief extracts. Speaking of the natives of Korea, Mr. Foulk says :

“ Both men and women were tall and well formed, and in
“ personal appearance and manners, more likely to command

*Since the above was written Korea and Great Britain have concluded their treaty, prohibiting opium.

“the respect of foreigners than either the Japanese or Chinese
“in their original conditions. Their faces were broad and
“features large, with finely shaped heads. The stolid, impass-
“sive expression of the Chinese, or the sly, crafty appearance
“so commonly observed in Japan and China, was rarely notice-
“able among the Koreans. We thought them frank and
“honest in expression, pleasing though timid. Their com-
“plexion was of a redder tint than that of the Japanese or
“Chinese. The hair varied in color from black to light red-
“dish brown. White clothes made of cotton were almost
“invariably worn, wadded in winter with cotton. The lan-
“guage spoken at Fusan was a dialect of Korean peculiar to
“the province of Kiung-sang, in which Fusan is situated. It
“closely resembles Japanese in many respects, which doubt-
“less explains the fluency with which Fusan Koreans speak
“the latter language. As in Japan, the educated people use
“Chinese largely in speaking and writing. Education up to a
“certain standard is very general, almost everybody in the
“land, women excepted, being able to write in the Chinese
“characters. Young boys could reply easily in Chinese to
“our questions given them in that language. We were told
“that in every town or village, schools abound at which boys
“are taught to read and write the one thousand Chinese
“characters, which make up the common school education.
“We were told that Korean men treat women with much
“more courtesy and consideration than is common in other
“parts of the east. On our way to Wen-shan from Fusan,
“and about ninety-five miles distant from Wen-shan, we
“passed two high mountain peaks about five thousand and
“eight thousand feet high. The harbor of Wen-shan, called
“by the Russians Port Lazareff, is one of the finest in the
“world; the beautiful mountain headlands dropping steep
“down and close up to the water's edge, but with here and
“there belts of low level land with trees and beautiful grass
“plots, among which are situated the Korean and Japanese
“towns.”

Wen-shan was opened to Japan in 1880.

I have had numerous enquires in regard to the import and

export trade of this country for the past five or six years, and also as to the prospects for the future, and have taken some little pains to procure reliable information, as far as it can be secured. From the British Legation in Tokio, the capital of Japan, I have obtained the following valuable statistics :

For the year ending June 30th, 1877, the entire foreign import trade into Korea was yen 348,000, equal to gold \$250,000 (the yen being valued at about seventy cents gold, or eighty cents Mexican), whilst in 1881, the imports had increased in value to yen 3,800,000, or gold \$2,700,000, showing in four years an increase of more than ten-fold.

General Foote in his letter to me dated July 13th last, introducing the Embassy, mentions that the trade of Japan alone with Korea in 1882 amounted to fully \$3,000,000, or nearly equal to that of the previous four years together. The exports for the five years from 1877 to 1882 amounted to yen 5,100,000, or gold \$3,600,000; while the balance of trade in favor of Korea was equal to yen 501,000, or gold \$350,000. Of foreign shipping (Chinese and Japanese) in 1878, 1900 tons had been entered and cleared, whilst in 1880 27,000 tons, an increase of fourteen-fold, had arrived and departed from Korean ports. If such results have been brought about with but one or two open ports, and trading *only* with China and Japan, what may we not expect from the opening up of additional ports, and the advent of a more extended trade with enterprising western nations having the great facilities of cheap and rapid steam communication, via. the Suez canal, and by way of San Francisco and Japan?

After six years of commercial intercourse with the Japanese at Fusan, the Koreans now take as Imports, (chiefly from Japanese ports), the following merchandise: Cotton goods (American and English), American petroleum, flour, tin plates, iron, glass, dyes, tools and machinery, clocks, watches, hardware, iron hollow ware, lacquer work, and foreign nick-nacks. Of exports, the principal articles sent to Japan and China are: Gold-dust and silver, ginseng, cotton, hemp, (of very fine quality and of early growth), flax, tobacco, indigo, hides, biche-de-mer, fish, rice, raw silk, fans, bamboo, furs of

many kinds, paper, and various plants yielding paper stock, peony bark, gall-nuts, varnishes and lacquers, oil, timber, and innumerable articles for domestic use.

At Fusan the Japanese government has a concession of forty-two acres of ground on which are some imposing buildings. The Japanese Legation comprises a Minister, secretaries, interpreters, military officers, policemen, students, and servants, about forty persons in all.

An exposition of Japanese, American and European goods was held at Fusan, some little time since, attended by fully 25,000 people, and proved to be a great success. About three-quarters of all the goods sold were American (cotton drills, sheetings and jeans, petroleum, clocks, watches, hardware, &c.) and European; the balance being Japanese and Chinese.

Another little reminiscence of personal experience in Korea, to which I believe you will be pleased to listen, I will here record, as I can but think that all such reliable information is of special value, coming from a country about which we have heretofore known little or nothing. In June, 1865, the American schooner *Surprise*, Captain C. H. McCaslin, formerly in command of a small steamer belonging to my firm in Shanghae, was totally wrecked on the Korean coast near a fishing village, about thirty miles north of the Han-yan river. From Captain McCaslin, I obtained in May last the following information in regard to his unfortunate experience in being cast away on that dangerous coast. After great perils the crew, consisting of nine persons, reached the shore in safety and at once started northwest for the frontier walled city of Moukden, distant about one hundred and seventy miles. At this city, about three miles inland from Black river, they stopped ten days, awaiting the arrival of a tribute caravan en route to Peking. After camping one day and night on neutral ground between Korea and China, they started for Newchwang and Chefoo. Throughout Korea they passed through a finely wooded and agricultural country, with abundant signs of mineral deposits, such as coal, iron, copper, &c. The natives, I am sorry to say, treated Captain McCaslin and his companions very badly, and they were from day to day almost

without food, except when plucking the ears of corn and eating the native cucumbers, melons, and such other vegetables as they could lay hands upon. They fortunately chanced to meet a French Jesuit priest conversant with the language, to whose kind and urgent intercessions with the natives and officials the party really owed its safe deliverance. For this good Samaritan act, this Jesuit priest was presented by President Johnson with a handsome testimonial, a gold watch and chain. The Chinese, too, were very uncivil and treated them shamefully. After spending nearly three months in Korea and Moukden, they reached Newchwang in company with the tribute Embassy, to which they rendered valuable assistance in crossing streams and dangerous passes with their bullocks and other animals, thereby gaining their confidence and good favor, and receiving in return the supplies of which they stood greatly in need. From Newchwang and Chefoo they took passage for Shanghae.

As one good effect of this opening up of Korea under our treaty, we have a right to believe that such treatment of shipwrecked crews thrown upon that coast cannot possibly take place in the future.

And now a few words in regard to one of the greatest living actors of to-day, prominent on the stage of Oriental diplomacy in the Far East, a man who exercises a very powerful influence for good, as an exponent of modern progressive ideas, which, coming from a Chinamen, we appreciate all the more. Not only in Korea has this influence been strongly felt, bringing about the grand results which we have already herein recorded, but in China, among the Mandarins and officials generally, a large portion of whom are known to be hostile to foreign intercourse, this Chinaman is gradually bringing about a revulsion of feeling favorable to the outer world. I refer to that greatest of Chinese statesmen, Li-hung-chang, Grand Secretary ; in reality, Prime Minister of China, Senior Guardian of the Emperor, and Viceroy of Chihli. Exercising her old traditional claims of suzerainty over Annam, China has sent Li-hung-chang, as its most trusted representative, south from Peking to Shanghae, that he may be nearer the scene of

action, and more readily communicate with the Annamese authorities, and there meet the French representatives if necessary, to treat for terms of compromise, or other settlement of their difficulties.

The French in Annam, or Cochin China, or Cambodia, as it was called in our earlier days, are giving the Chinese government a great deal of anxiety, for between Annam, which the French have largely controlled for the past thirty years, with their headquarters at Saigon, and China's southernmost provinces of Kwang-si and Yunnan lies Tong-king, bordering on the East upon the Gulf of Tong-king. The French insist upon exercising at least a joint control with China over certain portions of both Annam and Tong-king, in return for which concession on the part of China, France is willing to acknowledge China's claims of suzerainty over Annam, and to agree on certain conditions to establish a neutral belt of territory, with the Red river as the dividing line, as a sort of guarantee of China's independence and safety at the South. The Chinese, however, positively refuse to treat with France on any such basis. The French are never satisfied, and keep pushing on farther and farther, very much to the annoyance of the Chinese, as neither the English or Americans attempt to enforce any such schemes. Naturally, China feels much stronger and more independent than she did fifteen or twenty years ago. She is to-day inclined to resist these inroads on the part of the French on her borders, and war between the two nations seems inevitable.

On the thirtieth of May last, the very day I left China for Japan and America, Li-hung-chang arrived in Shanghai, this being his first visit there for twenty-one years. The streets were crowded with both natives and foreigners. Amidst the booming of cannon from the Chinese gun-boats in the Whangpoa river, and the burning of much powder on shore, Li landed in the foreign settlement, escorted by a very fair array of Chinese troops, Mandarins, and attendants on horse-back and in sedan chairs, preceded by a native band drilled by French officers. His own sedan chair and eight bearers were

dressed in deep mourning, out of reverence for his deceased mother, for whom Chinese official etiquette requires, as a rule, full three years mourning, generally attended by strict seclusion. In this special case, by an edict of the Emperor, only one hundred days were allowed to Li, his services at this critical state of affairs with the French being considered indispensable.

Li at once proceeded to his temporary residence in the foreign settlement of Shanghae opposite the English Cathedral, these quarters very singularly having been about fifteen years ago the offices and residence, or hong, of my firm, now transformed into the extensive premises of the China Merchants Steamship Company, a joint protégé so to speak of Li-hung-chang and his enterprising and valued friend, Tong-king-sing. This company now runs a line of steamers from Shanghae to Korean ports via Chefoo.

Tong-king-sing was for many years in the employ of the well-known English firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co., in Shanghae, as compradore or head Chinese employé. He has a very good English education and is the chief manager of the China Merchants Steamship Company, owning about thirty-five foreign built steamers, about half of which were originally American, sent out from the United States, and now running on the Yangtze and Peibo rivers and coast of China, both north and south, with headquarters at Shanghae, and absorbing the larger proportion of the native carrying trade. During the American war I had many business transactions with Tong-king-sing, and retain very favorable recollections of my acquaintance and experience with him. He has lately been to England and South America on business pertaining to his company. Possibly he may soon visit New York. He is accompanied by his Secretary, also acting as sub-manager of the steamship company, Mr. George H. Butler, an American colored gentleman, formerly with Mr. Burlingame, our United States Minister to Peking, and Special Commissioner for the Chinese Embassy sent to this country and Europe many years since. Mr. Butler's services have been of great value to the steamship company, by which he is still held in very high esteem.

I had the pleasure of seeing Li-hung-chang on two different occasions upon that 30th day of May. He is a man of large stature and commanding presence, decidedly above the ordinary height of Chinamen, standing fully six feet three inches, with a heavy black mustache, and serious cast of countenance. Following him came his favorite adopted son (a son of his brother), a young man of twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age, having an excellent English education, whom Judge Denny says gives great promise of becoming a second Li, and a most valuable official of the Chinese Empire. Considering that Li is now about sixty years of age, we will within the near future probably see this son coming to the front, to take up the responsible duties so ably and honorably conducted by his father. Our present Consul-General in Shanghai, formerly Consul in Tientsin, Judge O. D. Denny, is a warm personal friend of Li-hung-chang, and I know that on more than one occasion, where matters of state have given Li great anxiety and perplexity, he has sought special relief in the kindly and disinterested counsels of his friend Judge Denny.

Had I time I would be glad to refer to my visits in Japan; to Yokohama, Tokio, Hiogo, Kioto, Osaka and Nagasaki. At Osaka we find the Imperial Japanese mint, purchased on very favorable terms from the British Government in Hong-Kong. It is now in full operation, issuing Japanese gold and silver coins of very pretty native design, specimens of which, and of the paper or yen currency, I took with me. Here in Osaka I went through the famous old stone fortress of the Daimaios, built in the thirteenth century of massive granite blocks, many being of most extraordinary size. The old well, which six hundred years ago supplied the beleaguered garrison with pure cool water, was in a most excellent state of preservation. From a bucket lowered to a depth said to be one hundred and fifty feet, I sipped a most refreshing draught. *

At Kioto I spent an interesting day in the old Shintoo and Buddhist temples and in riding through this extensive and fine old city, fully five miles in diameter. I was particularly pleased at what I saw in the Kioto native Exposition, com-

prising a series of buildings of various shapes and pretty designs, and containing a most beautiful collection of the various manufactures and products peculiar to Japan. This grand fair was held in the extensive palace grounds of the Mikado, formerly the residence and seat of government of the Tycoons, in the old feudal days of the Daimaios and Ronins.

My visit to Kioto, 60 miles from Hiogo, was in company with two agreeable companions, Mr. John Fryer, of Shanghai, and Miss Mary E. Lee, daughter of the late Gen. Robt. E. Lee, a young lady making a tour around the world, quite alone.

Of Peking, Tientsin, Shanghae, Hongkong and Canton, I shall not be able to make any special mention, and I can but allude briefly to my day's visit to Tokio, the capital of Japan, with its one, or one and a-quarter million of inhabitants; it being really indirectly associated with my subject, Tokio being the residence of the Mikado, (or Emperor, as he is also called), Empress, and Royal family. The foreign legations are also all located here.

I had intended to be present at the grand reception given by the Emperor and Empress to General and Mrs. Foote, on the 25th day of April last, a magnificent entertainment, such as the Mikado had not before given to any foreign official, excepting Gen. Grant. Unfortunately, the time of my departure for Shanghae came upon the same day, leaving me too short a time to risk the trip from Yokohama to Tokio and back. It certainly was a cause of great regret to me. The Mikado I had before seen in Nagasaki, when making his first appearance before the public in July, 1872.

Jealousy of China, and a natural desire to secure the very earliest good favor of both our Minister (the first to make a treaty with Korea), and of the King of Korea himself, in advance of China, were, no doubt, the motives which lead the Mikado to bestow such special honors upon Gen. Foote. On a previous occasion, both General and Mrs. Foote were entertained at a lunch party, where, as I was informed by Mrs. Foote, not only was the Empress present, but a number of ladies of high Imperial rank—a privilege greatly in contrast with the customs prevailing for centuries down to 1868.

One day, however, I did devote in Tokio to calls, first upon the United States Minister, Mr. Bingham, who unfortunately was absent at Yokohama. The new buildings, both residences and offices of the United States Legation, are very neat, and really quite imposing, considering that the American and not the British Ensign floats at the mast head in the legation compound. The trip from Yokohama, twenty-two miles by rail, in very comfortable English carriages, occupied about three-quarters of an hour. Arriving at the railway station in Tokio, I found the distance to the American and British legations across the city very great, but by native Jin-rick-shas, or small two-wheeled carriages, or Pullman cars, as they are facetiously called, with two native bettos, or runners, harnessed tandem, the four or five miles were very soon made.

I had a most delightful call upon an old acquaintance, Sir Harry Parkes, the British Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan, who in 1860 I knew as British Consul in Shanghai, and afterwards as Private Secretary to Lord Elgin's Embassy during the Peiho war, in 1860 and 1861.

The grounds and buildings of the British Legation are both extensive and imposing; in full keeping with England's universal tradition and liberal expenditures in maintaining her position and dignity among the Oriental nations. Here I met both Sir Harry Parkes and his accomplished daughter, who does the honors of Sir Harry's household, and with whom I took the usual complimentary and friendly cup of afternoon tea. Lady Parkes died about two years since. Sir Harry expressed himself freely upon matters pertaining to Japan and Korea, and his long residence in the former country, recounting his visit to Peking with Lord Elgin, when he was captured by Chinese soldiers, thrown into a loathsome prison in Peking, crowded with the very worst kinds of criminals, and subsequently rescued by a friendly Mandarin, who formerly knew Sir Harry, he being able to speak the Mandarin dialect fluently. At night he was lowered over the high city walls by a rope, escaping into the British camp before the city gate.

Now, by special appointment of Queen Victoria, Sir Harry Parkes is to be sent to Peking as England's Minister Plenipo-

tentiary. This, I said to him, could but be a most gratifying vindication and partial recompense for the sufferings he had undergone at the hands of the Chinese Mandarins, in 1860, nearly dying from their barbarous treatment; but now he returns to these former scenes as England's Minister Plenipotentiary, and by the successors to those Mandarins, is received and saluted with high honors. In his quiet and unassuming way, Sir Harry gave his approval to my remarks, adding that twenty-three years having elapsed since those scenes, and the former actors in the drama having passed off the stage, the remembrance of the details had grown dim and the hostile feelings toward him had no doubt passed away.

Well do I remember in Shanghae, in 1861, the circumstances connected with this horrible affair; the capture at the same time with Sir Harry Parkes of poor Bowlby and Anderson, the former the China correspondent of the *London Times* with the English army before Peking, who was dragged by the feet, at the end of a native cart through the streets of Peking, dying under this horrible treatment. Anderson was imprisoned and died. Both were buried in the British Consular Compound in Shanghae. Sir Harry Parkes had no right to expect other than a similar fate, which would undoubtedly have been meted out to him, but for the friendly interference of the Mandarin, before mentioned. Not only England, America, and Korea, but the world generally is exceedingly fortunate in having this experienced, genial, though firm, and successful English diplomatist in Oriental affairs in this important position in China, at a time when the influences, (other than those emanating from Li-hung-chang,) of the Mandarins, and officials are generally believed to be inimical to foreigners. I conversed with Sir Harry Parkes fully a half-hour, concerning Korea, finding as I had expected, that he takes a very warm interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of this newly opened country. He does not look with favor upon certain portions of our new American treaty, notably, the increase in the tariff rates conceded to Korea, which concessions are by Englishmen considered to be opposed to England's free trade interests. The absence of a clause permitting Protestant

missionaries free intercourse and guaranteeing their protection, is also disapproved by the British Minister. The Japanese whilst missing their old friend and minister, as they surely will, may, in the event of any dispute with China arising, congratulate themselves in having a true and impartial mediator at the court of Peking in this experienced diplomatist. In fact the entire community, both foreign and native in Japan, are in thorough accord in their appreciation of Sir Harry Parkes.

I feel that I cannot make a more fitting close of this lengthy discourse than by devoting a short space of time to our recent guests, the Korean Embassy. Early in July last we learned for the first time that the King of Tah-Chosun had decided, on the strong recommendation of Minister Foote, to send one of his high officers, Prince Min-yong-ik, a nephew of the King and brother-in-law of the Heir Apparent, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, together with Mr. Hong-yeng-shik, son of the Prime Minister, as Vice-Minister, accompanied by a suite of seven other native officials and interpreters, as a special Embassy to Washington. Its purpose was to personally present to President Arthur the congratulations and good wishes of the King of Tah-Chosun upon the interchange of treaty ratifications between the King and United States Minister Foote at Séoul, on the 19th of May, 1883. I had already received a warm letter of introduction from General Foote, asking a cordial welcome for the Embassy, under date of Séoul, the 13th of July. The Embassy arrived at Washington on the 14th of September, leaving at once for New York, owing to the absence of the President and his Cabinet officers. On the 18th of September, their Excellencies Min and Hong were received by the President, Secretary of State Frelinghuysen, and Messrs. Davis and Chew, also of the State Department, in the parlors of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where the credentials of the Ambassadors and the address on the part of the King were presented in person to the President. A suitable and most cordial welcome in response was accorded thereto, all present seeming to be well pleased with this final

interchange of official courtesies. The Embassy at once visited Boston, upon the invitation of the managers of the World's Exposition, then being held in that city, spending several days in sight-seeing and receiving attentions from the Governor of the State and city authorities, returning to New York on the 23d of September. In connection with Commodore Upshur, of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and acting under the recommendations of General Foote's letter, from that time to the date of their departure, on the 1st of December, I took much interest in their welfare, and was able I trust to be of some little service to his Excellency while here.

On the 26th of September a committee of down-town New York merchants escorted the Embassy to various places of public and private interest, ending with an entertainment in the evening. On other days they made visits in and out of the city under the auspices of Commodore Upshur. On the 14th of November His Excellency, secretary, attaché, and Ensign Foulk accepted my invitation, on behalf of President Hebard and Mr. John D. Cutter, to visit the United States Electric Light Co. and Cutter's silk factory, in Newark, finishing the day with a brief visit to Orange, making a social call in our New England rooms in Music Hall, and in the evening attending a reception held at my house in honor of the Prince, thus giving him and his suite an opportunity of experiencing a little of our own social life.

H. E. Prince Min is a son of Min-ho, the King's Minister of the Left. He holds the office of President of the Agricultural Department of the government and it is his intention on his return to establish a large public park in Séoul.

An exposition or museum is about to be opened at the Capital, and from a notification issued through the State Department by Commissioner of Customs Von Mullendorff, our merchants are invited to send exhibits to the exposition, which will be taken charge of at Shanghae, forwarded to their destination at the expense of the Chosunese government, and there placed in position. It is hoped, as soon as this information becomes generally known, that full advantage will be

taken of the opportunity by our enterprising merchants, who possess many varieties of manufactures of cottons and woollens, agricultural implements, hardware, watches, clocks, petroleum and such goods as the Koreans will certainly require from this country. H. E. has purchased many different implements with the latest improvements, for farming purposes, and these are now being shipped out to China and Korea in readiness for the opening of the agricultural grounds of the government in April next.

The Minister and his suite left New York on the first of December in the United States steamer "Trenton," for Gibraltar and Marseilles, from whence a short trip will be taken to Paris and London. From Marseilles, via the Suez Canal, the Indian ocean, the Straits of Malacca, and the China sea, the "Trenton" will deliver her guests, probably early in April next, at the seaport of Ren-shan, near Séoul. The minister on the day of his departure expressed himself as highly pleased with his experience of two months and a-half in this country.

One by one the Oriental countries have opened their doors to the western world, and now another, the Hermit Nation, with its thirteen millions of people, obeying the summons of the age, issues from its seclusion to live a neighborly life with the nations roundabout, in the hopes of giving and receiving the benefits of social and mercantile intercourse. Henceforth Korea proposes to be known among men. The ship that sails around the world will not pass her by as heretofore, but enter her harbors and discharge the products of other lands. The electric spark which has flashed for others will soon work for her as well, and chronicle the passing phases of life in New York, London, Paris and the world at large. Her students will stay with us long enough to learn our thoughts and ideas, only to disseminate them over their own land when they return home. Our merchants will meet her merchants, and commerce follow to the benefit of both. Let us then hope that the return of the Embassy to its own Tah Chosun, carry-

ing into its official and home life the ideas and suggestions gained among us, will hasten this desired end, and that Korea, the last of the Oriental countries seeking admission into the family of nations, urged forward under the stimulus and guidance of our western religion and civilization, will receive and retain for all time the same benefits which have been gained and made profitable use of by the Occidental World.



